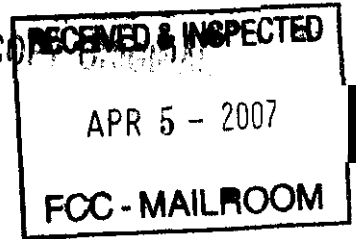


DOCKET FILE COPY

DICKSON COUNTY SCHOOLS

817 North Charlotte Street
Dickson, TN 37055



**CC Docket No. 02-6
Request for Review**

**RE: Appeal of Reduced Funding of Telephone Service and Internet Service for
Dickson County School District**

Date: March 29, 2007

Funding Commitment Report Dated 02/06/2007
Applicant Name: Dickson County School District
Form 471 Application Number: 527252
Billed Entity Number: 128215
Funding Request Number: 1454600 and 1454665
Funding Year: 2006 (Year 9)

Appeal Request: Telephone Service FRN# 1454600 and Internet Service FRN #1454665 was denied. We wish to appeal this denial based on the SLD's circumstance regarding clarifying an SLD error and providing documentation to correct an incorrect assumption based on Appeal Decision DA 06-1653 and FCC Order FCC 07-37 (see attached). We sent the attached appeal letter to the SLD and our request was denied without request for any further information. Our denial was based on the fact that our district didn't prove the creation date of our technology plan. However, we were not asked for any additional information so that we could prove the creation date.

The Appeal Decision Letter explanation states:

"The technology plan you submitted was created October 2006 which comes after the Form 471 filing date of February 15, 2006. On appeal you provide an authorized letter stating the district's technology plan was approved June 28, 2006. However, this still does not prove that the technology plan was created at the time the Form 470 was filed. Therefore, the appeal is denied."

Applicant Explanation:

We believe the SLD erred in that an incorrect assumption was made by the SLD in reviewing information provided to PIA questions.

We would like to clarify the information previously sent to the SLD. Attached is a copy of the approval letter from the State showing that we had a technology plan approved from July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2009. Also attached is a copy of the technology plan that was approved by the State for this time period. This technology plan was created prior to the posting of any of Dickson County School District's Form 470s for the 2006 year.

No. of Copies rec'd
List A B C D E

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Relief Reauested

We request that the application **be** funded in full for **\$249,123.12** given that we did have a correctly approved technology pian and followed all of the requirements.

In addition to the above, we are also available to provide any additional **clarification** needed. I look **forward** to your resolution of this appeal and am available to answer any other questions you may have. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Charlie Daniel
Director of Schools
Dickson County District
Phone: 615-446-7571
cdaniel@dcbe.org

Contact Information:

Pat Semore
Dickson County School District
817 N Charlotte Street
Dickson, TN 37055-1008
615-446-7571 ext.15000
psemore@dcbe.org
Fax 615-740-5904



Universal Service Administrative Company
Schools & Libraries Division

Administrator's **Decision on Appeal - Funding Year 2006-2007**

March 20, 2007

Charlie Daniel
Dickson County Schools
817 North Charlotte Street
Dickson, TN 37055

Re: Applicant Name: DICKSON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Billed Entity Number: 128215
Form 471 Application Number: 527252
Funding Request Number(s): 1454600, 1454665
Your Correspondence Dated: February 12, 2007

After thorough review and investigation of all relevant facts, the Schools and Libraries Division (SLD) of the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) has made its decision in regard to your appeal of USAC's Funding Year 2006 Funding Commitment Decision Letter for the Application Number indicated above. This letter explains the basis of USAC's decision. The date of this letter begins the 60 day time period for appealing this decision to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). If your Letter of Appeal included more than one Application Number, please note that you will receive a separate letter for each application.

Funding Request Number(s): 1454600; 1454665
Decision on Appeal: Denied
Explanation:

- Upon thorough review of the appeal letter and supporting documentation, it was determined that you did not have a technology plan that covers Funding Year 2006-2007. In the **SRIR** response provided to USAC on May 24, 2006, Pat Semore provided a copy of the **Tennessee** Comprehensive System-wide Plan and the current technology plan covering years 2003 to 2006. The Selective Reviewer sent a follow up on January 11, 2007, requesting a copy of the current technology plan covering Funding Year 2006-2007 and the creation date of the plan. In response to the Selective reviewer inquiry dated January 11, 2007, Mr. Semore submitted a copy of the technology plan covering 2006 to 2010 and stated that the plan was created October 2006. According to guidelines set forth by the FCC, a technology plan must be written at the time the Form 470 or Form 471 is filed. The technology plan you submitted was created October 2006 which comes after

the Form 471 filing date of February 15, 2006. **On** appeal, you provide an authorized letter stating the district's technology plan was approved June 28, 2006. However, this still does not prove that the technology plan was created at the time the Form 470 or Form 471 is filed. Therefore, the appeal is denied.

- On your Form 471, you certified that the recipients of products and/or service were covered by an individual and/or higher-level technology plan and that the technology plan had been approved or was in the process of being approved. During the review of your application, USAC requested that you provide a copy of your technology plan and you submitted a current technology plan covering years 2006 to 2010. Your technology plan covering the 2006 Funding Year failed to meet program requirements because it was created after posting your Form 471.
- Your Form 471 requested **funding** for products and/or services other than basic local and long distance telephone service. FCC Rules require applicants to certify that **the** entities receiving products and/or services other than basic telephone service are covered by an individual and/or higher-level technology plan that has been, or **is** in the process of being approved. 47 C.F.R. sec. 54.504(c)(1)(iv) and (v); See Schools and Libraries Universal Service, Services Ordered and Certification Form, OMB 3060-0806 Block 6, Item 26 (FCC Form 471).

If your appeal has been approved, but funding has been reduced or denied, you may appeal these decisions to either USAC or the FCC. For appeals that have been denied in full, partially approved, dismissed, or canceled, you may file **an** appeal with the FCC. You should refer to CC Docket No. 02-6 on the first page of your appeal to the FCC. Your appeal must be received or postmarked within 60 days of the date on this letter. Failure to meet this requirement will result in automatic dismissal of your appeal. If you are submitting your appeal via United States Postal Service, send to: FCC, Office of the Secretary, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554. Further information and options for filing an appeal directly with the FCC can be found in the "Appeals Procedure" posted in the Reference Area of the SLD section of the USAC website or by contacting the Client Service Bureau. We strongly recommend that you use the electronic filing options.

We thank you for your continued support, patience and cooperation during the appeal process.

Schools and Libraries Division
Universal Service Administrative Company

Charlie Daniel
Dickson County Schools
817 North Charlotte Street
Dickson, TN 37055

Billed Entity Number: 128215
Form 471 Application Number: 527252
Form 486 Application Number:

Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC 20554

In the Matter of)	
)	
Requests for Review of Decision of the)	
Universal Service Administrator by)	
)	
School Administrative District 67		
Lincoln, Maine)	File No. SLD-457458
)	
Schools and Libraries Universal Service)	CC Docket No. 02-6
Support Mechanism)	

ORDER

Adopted: August 18, 2006

Released: August 18, 2006

By the Deputy Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau:

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In this Order, we grant a request by School Administrative District 67 (the District) for review of a decision by the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) reducing its funding from the schools and libraries universal service support mechanism (also known as the E-rate program) because USAC determined that its approved technology plan did not cover all of funding year (FY) 2005.¹ For the reasons set forth below, we grant the District's Request for Review and remand the underlying application to USAC for further consideration consistent with this Order.

II. BACKGROUND

2. The E-rate program permits eligible schools, libraries, and consortia that include eligible schools and libraries to apply for funding in the form of discounts on eligible telecommunications services, Internet access, and internal connections.² The Commission requires participating schools and libraries to base their requests for discounts on an approved technology plan,³ unless they are seeking discounts only on telecommunications services.⁴ Specifically, to ensure that applicants make appropriate

¹See Letter from David Theoharides, Mattanawcook Junior High School, School Administrative District 67, CC Docket No. 02-6 (filed Jan. 1, 2006) (Request for Review). Section 54.719(c) of the Commission's rules provides that any person aggrieved by an action taken by a division of the Administrator may seek review from the Commission. 47 C.F.R. § 54.719(c). Funding Year 2005 started on July 1, 2005 and ended on June 30, 2006.

²47 C.F.R. §§ 54.501-54.503.

³*Id.* §§ 54.504(b)(2)(iii)-(iv), 54.508; *Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service*, CC Docket No. 96-45, Report and Order, 12 FCC Rcd 8776, 9077, para. 572 (1997) (*Universal Service Order*) (subsequent history omitted).

⁴47 C.F.R. § 54.504(b)(2)(iv); Universal Service Administrative Company, Eligible Services List, http://www.universalservice.org/_res/documents/sl/pdf/els_archive/2006-eligible-services-list.pdf (dated Nov. 18, 2005) (2006 *Eligible Services List*) ("If submitting [an] application ONLY for single line voice services (Local, Cellular/PCS, and/or long distance telephone service), applicants are not required to develop a Technology Plan. Applicants applying for other products or services, including PBX, key system, Centrex system, or similar technology are required to develop a Technology Plan."); see also *Request for Review of the Decision of the*

decisions regarding the services for which they seek discounts, applicants ~~must~~ develop a technology plan prior to requesting bids on services through FCC Form 470.⁵ In addition, to ensure that the plans are based on the reasonable needs and resources of the applicants and are consistent with the goals of the program, the technology plans must be independently approved by a state agency or other specified entity.⁶ Applicants whose technology plans have not been approved when they file FCC Form 470 must certify that they understand their technology plans must be approved prior to the commencement of service.⁷ They **also** must confirm, in FCC Form **486**, that their plan was approved before they began receiving services.⁸

3. The District requests review of USAC's decision to reduce the District's funding from the E-rate program because USAC determined that the District's technology plan did not cover all of FY 2005 (July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006). The District asserts that it had an approved technology plan in place through June 30, 2006.⁹ When USAC asked for a copy of its technology **plan**, however, the District provided a link to a website that contained a copy of **its** 2002-2005 technology plan (*i.e.*, the plan that was in effect at the time of USAC's request).¹⁰ According to the District, USAC agreed that the District could provide a copy of its "current" technology plan and, in subsequent requests for additional information, USAC never asked why the District provided a copy of **its** technology plan for 2002-2005 rather than its technology plan for **2005-2006**.¹¹ The District claims that it "could have easily sent [USAC] the plan [USAC] wanted covering 2005-2006 which had been approved by the State of Maine had [USAC] asked."¹² The District provided a copy of its approved technology plan for FY 2005 with its **appeal** to USAC and with its appeal to the Commission.¹³

III. DISCUSSION

4. Based on the specific facts presented here, we grant the District's Request for Review. We find that the District satisfied our requirements in sections 54.504(b)(2)(iii) and 54.508(c) to develop and obtain approval of a technology plan for FY 2005.¹⁴ We note that USAC reduced the District's E-rate

Universal Service Administrator by United Talmudical Academy, Federal-Slate Joint Board on Universal Service, Changes to the Board of Directors of the National Exchange Carrier Association, CC Docket Nos. 96-45, 97-21, Order, 16 FCC Rcd 18812, 18816, para. 11 (2001).

⁵47 C.F.R. § 54.504(b)(2)(iii).

⁶*Id.* § 54.508(d); *Universal Service Order*, 12 FCC at 9078, para. 574. See also Universal Service Administrative Company, Technology Plans, <http://www.universalservice.org/sl/applicants/step02/> (last modified Jan. 6, 2006).

⁷47 C.F.R. §§ 54.504(b)(2)(iii)-(iv), 54.508(c); see also *Schools and Libraries Universal Service Support Mechanism*, CC Docket No. 02-6, Fifth Report and Order and Order, 19 FCC Rcd 15808, 15826-30, para. 56 (2004) (*Fifth Report and Order*). Applicants whose technology plans have not been approved when they file FCC Form 471 once again certify that they understand their technology plans must be approved prior to the commencement of service. 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.504(c)(1)(iv)-(v).

⁸47 C.F.R. § 54.508(c).

⁹Request for Review at 1.

¹⁰*Id.*

¹¹*Id.*

¹²*Id.*

¹³See generally Request for Review.

¹⁴See 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.504(b)(2)(iii), 54.508(c).

funding not because the District failed to develop and obtain approval of a technology plan, but because the District provided USAC with a copy of the wrong technology plan. This error resulted from a miscommunication between USAC and the District. Although applicants must make every effort to ensure that the documentation they file with USAC complies with E-rate program requirements and requests by USAC for additional information, we remind USAC that it has an obligation to conduct a reasonable inquiry into the filings and materials that USAC itself has in its possession.¹⁵ Moreover, we find that the actions we take here to provide relief from these types of errors in the application process will promote the statutory requirements of section 254(h) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, by helping to ensure that eligible schools and libraries actually obtain access to discounted telecommunications and information services.” We therefore conclude that a reduction in the District’s E-rate funding is unwarranted and contrary to the public interest. We grant the District’s Request for Review and remand its application to USAC for further consideration consistent with this Order.

5. To ensure that this Request for Review is resolved expeditiously, we direct USAC to complete its review of the District’s application and issue an award or a denial based on a complete review and analysis no later than 60 calendar days from release of this Order. If, on remand, USAC determines that it needs additional information to process the application, USAC shall permit the District to provide the information within 15 calendar days of receiving notice in writing from USAC that additional information is required.”

IV. ORDERING CLAUSES

6. ACCORDINGLY, IT IS ORDERED, pursuant to the authority contained in sections 1-4 and 254 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. §§ 151-154 and 254, and pursuant to authority delegated in sections 0.91, 0.291, and 54.722(a) of the Commission’s rules, 47 C.F.R. §§ 0.91, 0.291, and 54.722(a), that the Request for Review filed by School Administrative District 67 IS GRANTED.

7. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, pursuant to the authority contained in sections 1-4 and 254 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. §§ 151-154 and 254, and pursuant to authority delegated in sections 0.91, 0.291, and 54.722(a) of the Commission’s rules, 47 C.F.R. §§ 0.91, 0.291, and 54.722(a), that the application associated with the Request for Review filed by School Administrative District 67 IS REMANDED to USAC for further consideration in accordance with the terms of this Order.

8. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, pursuant to the authority contained in sections 1-4 and 254 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. §§ 151-154 and 254, and pursuant to authority delegated in sections 0.91 and 0.291 of the Commission’s rules, 47 C.F.R. §§ 0.91 and 0.291,

¹⁵*Requests for Review of the Decision of the Universal Service Administrator by Pasadena Unified School District, Schools and Libraries Universal Service Support Mechanism*, File Nos. SLD-199355 et al., CC Docket No. 02-6, Order, DA 06-486, para. 9 (Wireline Comp. Bur. rel. Feb. 28, 2006); *c.f. Requests for Review of the Decision of the Universal Service Administrator by Bishop Perry Middle School, et al., Schools and Libraries Universal Service Support Mechanism*, File Nos. SLD-487170 et al., CC Docket No. 02-6, Order, PCC 06-54 (rel. May 19, 2006) (directing USAC to identify and allow applicants to cure errors related to FCC Form 470 and FCC Form 471 filings and to enhance outreach to applicants in order to avoid clerical, ministerial, and procedural errors).

¹⁶47 U.S.C. § 254(h)

¹⁷The District will be presumed to have received notice five days after such notice is postmarked by USAC. USAC, however, shall continue to work beyond the 15 days with the District if the District attempts in good faith to provide correct information

that USAC SHALL COMPLETE its review of the application associated with the Request **for** Review Filed by School Administrative District **67** and **ISSUE** an award or a denial based on a complete review and analysis no later than 60 calendar days from release of this Order.

9. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Order SHALL BE EFFECTIVE upon release

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Julie A. Veach
Deputy **Chief**
Wireline Competition Bureau

Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC 20554

In the Matter of)	
)	
Requests for Review or Waiver of Decisions of)	
the Universal Service Administrator by)	
)	
Brownsville Independent School District)	File Nos. SLD-482620, <i>et al.</i>
Brownsville, TX, <i>et al.</i>)	
)	
Schools and Libraries Universal Service)	CC Docket No. 02-6
Support Mechanism)	

ORDER

Adopted: **March 22, 2007**

Released: March **28, 2007**

By the Commission: Commissioner McDowell issuing a statement

1. INTRODUCTION

1. In this Order, we grant appeals by 32 schools and libraries (collectively, Petitioners) of decisions by the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) that reduced or denied them funding from the schools and libraries universal service support mechanism (also known as the E-rate program).¹ Specifically, we waive, in part, our technology plan rules and remand the underlying applications to USAC for further consideration consistent with this Order. To ensure that the remanded applications are resolved expeditiously, we direct USAC to complete its review of each application listed in the Appendix, and issue an award or a denial based on a complete review and analysis, no later than 90 calendar days from release of this Order. In addition, beginning with applications for Funding Year 2007, we direct USAC to enhance its outreach efforts as described herein to better inform applicants of the technology plan requirements and to provide applicants with a 15-day opportunity to provide correct technology plan documentation.²

¹Section 54.719(c) of the Commission's rules provides that any person aggrieved by an action taken by a division of the Administrator may seek review from the Commission. 47 C.F.R. § 54.719(c). In this Order, we use the term "appeals" to refer generically to the requests for review or waiver listed in the Appendix.

²USAC determined that Petitioners' funding requests were not supported by an approved technology plan. In three instances, USAC granted the Petitioner's funding request but then cancelled the Petitioner's FCC Form 486 because USAC later determined that the funding requests were not supported by an approved technology plan. Therefore, unlike the other Petitioners, these Petitioners request review of USAC's decision to cancel their FCC Forms 486. See generally Request for Review of SEED Public Charter School; Request for Review of St. Mary's Public Library; Request for Review of The Pennsylvania School for the Deaf. In addition, one Petitioner, Kimball Public Library, whose funding request has not yet been denied, requests a waiver of the requirement that it file a technology plan. See generally Request for Waiver of Kimball Public Library.

³USAC shall apply this directive to all pending applications and appeals as well

2. As we recently noted, many E-rate program beneficiaries, particularly small entities, contend that the application process is complicated,⁴ resulting in their applications for E-rate support being denied because of simple mistakes. We find that the actions we take here will promote the statutory requirements of section 254(h) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended (the Act), by helping to ensure that eligible schools and libraries obtain access to discounted telecommunications and information services.⁵

3. In particular, to prevent some of the recurring mistakes related to the technology plan requirements while we consider additional steps to improve the E-rate program,⁶ we direct USAC to enhance its outreach efforts as described herein. Requiring USAC to take these additional steps will not reduce or eliminate any application review procedures or program requirements that applicants must comply with to receive funding. Indeed, we remain committed to detecting and deterring potential instances of waste, fraud, and abuse by ensuring that USAC continues to scrutinize applications and takes steps to educate applicants in a manner that fosters lawful program participation. We also emphasize that the actions taken in this Order should have minimal effect on the overall federal universal service fund (USF or Fund), because the monies needed to fund these appeals have already been collected and held in reserve.⁷

II. BACKGROUND

4. The E-rate program permits eligible schools, libraries, and consortia that include eligible schools and libraries to apply for funding in the form of discounts on eligible telecommunications services, Internet access, and internal connections.⁸ The Commission requires participating schools and libraries to base their requests for discounts on an approved technology plan,⁹ unless they are seeking discounts on "basic local, cellular, PCS, and/or long distance telephone service and/or voice mail only."¹⁰

³ *Comprehensive Review of Universal Service Fund Management, Administration, and Oversight, 1st Report and Order, Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, Schools and Libraries Universal Service Support Mechanism, Rural Health Care Support Mechanism, Lifeline and Linkup, Changes to the Board of Directors of the National Exchange Carrier Association, Inc.*, WC Docket Nos. 05-195, 02-60, 03-109, CC Docket Nos. 96-45, 02-6, 97-21, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 20 FCC Rcd 11308 (2005) (*Comprehensive Review NPRM*). See also *Request for Review of the Decision of the Universal Service Administrator by Bishop Perry Middle School, et al.*; *Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service*, File Nos. SLD 487170, et al., CC Docket No. 02-6, Order, 21 FCC Rcd 5316 (2006) (*Bishop Perry Order*); *Request for Review of the Decision of the Universal Service Administrator by Academy of Careers and Technologies, et al.*; *Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service*, File Nos. SLD-418938, et al., CC Docket No. 02-6, Order, 21 FCC Rcd 5348 (2006).

⁴ 47 U.S.C. § 254(h). The Telecommunications Act of 1996 Pub. L. No. 104-104, 110 Stat. 56, amended the Communications Act of 1934.

⁵ *Comprehensive Review NPRM*, 20 FCC Rcd at 11324-25, paras. 37-40 (seeking comment on the application process and competitive bidding requirements for the schools and libraries program)

⁶ See *infra* n.34.

⁷ 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.501-54.503.

⁸ *Id.* §§ 54.504(b)(2)(iii)-(iv), 54.508; *Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service*, CC Docket No. 96-45, Report and Order, 12 FCC Rcd 8776, 9077, para. 572 (1997) (*Universal Service Order*) (subsequent history omitted)

⁹ 47 C.F.R. § 54.504(b)(2)(iv); *Universal Service Administrative Company, Eligible Services List*, http://www.universalservice.org/_res/documents/sl/pdf/els_archive/2006-eligible-services-list.pdf (dated Nov. 18, 2005) (*2006 Eligible Services List*) ("If submitting [an] application ONLY for single line voice services (Landline, Cellular/PCS, and/or long distance telephone service), applicants are not required to develop a Technology Plan. Applicants applying for other products or services, including PBX, key system, or other office technology are required to develop a Technology Plan."); see also *Request for Review of the Decision of the*

Specifically, to ensure that applicants make appropriate decisions regarding the services for which they seek discounts, applicants must develop a technology plan prior to requesting bids on services through the filing of an FCC Form 470.¹⁰ In addition, to ensure that the plans are based on the reasonable needs and resources of the applicants and are consistent with the goals of the program, the technology plans must be independently approved by a state agency or other specified entity." Applicants whose technology plans have not been approved when they file FCC Form 470 must certify that they understand their technology plans must be approved prior to the commencement of service." They also must confirm, in FCC Form 486, that their plan was approved before they began receiving services."

5. Petitioners request review of USAC's decisions to reduce or deny them funding because their applications were not supported by an approved technology plan, as required by the Commission's rules.¹⁴

111. DISCUSSION

6. In this item, we grant Petitioners' requests for review and we waive, in part, the Commission's technology plan rules." We therefore remand the underlying applications to USAC for further consideration consistent with this Order. In remanding Petitioners' underlying applications to USAC, we make no finding as to the sufficiency of any technology plan documentation and we make no finding as to the ultimate eligibility of the requested services.

7. Petitioners' requests for funding from the E-rate program were denied because USAC determined that the funding requests were not supported by an approved technology plan. In some cases, Petitioners did not develop a technology plan because they sought discounts only for telecommunications

Universal Service Administrator by United Talmudical Academy, Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, Changes to the Board of Directors of the National Exchange Carrier Association, CC Docket Nos. 96-45, 97-21, Order, 16 FCC Rcd 18812, 18816, para. 11 (Com.Carr.Bur.2001).

"47 C.F.R. § 54.504(b)(2)(iii).

¹¹ *Id.* § 54.508(d); **Universal Service Order**, 12 FCC at 9078, para. 574. See also Universal Service Administrative Company, Technology Plans, <http://www.universal-service.org/sl/apyll> (last modified Nov. 1, 2006).

¹² 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.504(b)(2)(iii)-(iv), 54.508(c); see also **Schools and Libraries Universal Service Support Mechanism**, CC Docket No. 02-6, Fifth Report and Order and Order, 19 FCC Rcd 15808, 15826-30, para. 56 (2004) (**Fifth Report and Order**). Applicants whose technology plans have not been approved when they file FCC Form 471 must once again certify that they understand their technology plans must be approved prior to the commencement of service. 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.504(c)(1)(iv)-(v).

¹³ 47 C.F.R. § 54.508(c).

¹⁴ See *supra* n. 1.

¹⁵ See 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.504(b)(2)(iii)-(iv), (c)(1)(iv)-(v), 54.508(c)-(d). The Commission may waive any provision or its rules on its own motion for good cause shown. 47 C.F.R. § 1.3. A rule may be waived where the particular facts make strict compliance inconsistent with the public interest. **Northeast Cellular Telephone Co. v. FCC**, 897 F.2d 1164, 1166 (D.C. Cir. 1990) (**Northeast Cellular**). In addition, the Commission may take into account considerations of hardship, equity, or more effective implementation of overall policy on an individual basis. **WAIT Radio v. FCC**, 418 F.2d 1153, 1157, (D.C. Cir. 1969), **affirmed by WAIT Radio v. FCC**, 459 F.2d 1203 (D.C. Cir. 1972). In sum, waiver is appropriate if special circumstances warrant a deviation from the general rule, and such deviation would better serve the public interest than strict adherence to the general rule. **Northeast Cellular**, 897 F.2d at 1166.

services,” or because they believed that a technology plan was not required for basic voice service provided over an ISDN/PRI line, a **PBX** system, or other similar technology.” In other instances, Petitioners failed to show, in response to initial inquiries by USAC staff, that they had an approved technology plan in place for the relevant funding year, or that the plan was in the process of being approved.¹⁸ For example, some Petitioners had an approved technology plan in place for the relevant funding year, but provided an approval letter instead of the underlying plan,” provided incorrect information about the date on which the technology plan was created,” had the wrong entity approve the technology plan,” or were unaware that the technology plan already existed.²² Other Petitioners based

¹⁶See generally Request for Review of Dickens Public Library. Dickens Public Library requested discounts only on telecommunications services but mistakenly attached documentation from a different funding request suggesting that it might be seeking discounts on Internet access services as well. *Id.*

¹⁷See generally Request for Review of Pierson Library; Request for Review of Marathon County Public Library; Request for Review of Coldwater Library; Request for Waiver of Kimball Public Library; Request for Review of The Pennsylvania School for the Deaf. We note that, until October 2003, the Eligible Services List did not specify that voice services provided via PBX or similar technology required a technology plan. See Universal Service Administrative Company, Eligible Services List – Archived Versions, <http://www.usac.org/si/tools/search-tools/eligible-services-list-archived-versions.aspx> (last modified Apr. 12, 2006). Moreover, the Eligible Services List has not, and does not, specifically state that applicants who receive voice service via ISDN/PRI or CentraNet are required to develop a technology plan, which may be confusing to some applicants. *Id.*; see also 2006 Eligible Services List. Elbert County School District argues, in part, that it should not be required to submit a technology plan for Centrex services because Centrex was the most cost-effective way to obtain service. See generally Request for Review of Elbert County School District. Although applicants applying for Centrex service are required to develop a technology plan that reflects the service, we find that there is good cause to waive that requirement here. There is no evidence in the record that Elbert County School District intended to circumvent the technology plan requirements when it purchased Centrex service as a cost-saving measure.

¹⁸See generally Request for Review of School Administrative District 29; Request for Review of InterTechnologies Group; Request for Review of South Boardman Elementary School; Request for Review of Mark Twain Union Elementary School District; Request for Review of Norfolk Country Agricultural High School; Request for Review of Hancock County Public Library; Request for Review of Sowro Consolidated School District; Request for Review of Cleveland Country Memorial Library; Request for Review of Charlottesville City Schools; Request for Review of Wisconsin Rapids Area School District; Request for Review of SEED Public Charter School; Request for Review of Milford E. Barnes Jr. School; Request for Review of Dedham Public Schools; Request for Review of Jacksboro Independent School District; Request for Review of Maternity U.V.M. School; Request for Review of Elbert County School District; Request for Review of Our Lady of Grace School; Request for Review of Brownsville Independent School District; Request for Review of St. Malachy School; Request for Review of St. Mary Star of the Sea School; Request for Review of St. Paul – Our Lady of Vilna School; Request for Review of Urban Day School; Request for Review of Granite School District; Request for Review of Marion County School District Seven; Request for Review of St. Mary’s Public Library; Request for Review of The Pennsylvania School of the Deaf; Request for Review of Huntingdon Special School District.

¹⁹See Request for Review of Dedham Public Schools at 3

²⁰See Request for Review of St. Mary’s Public Library at 2; Request for Review of Huntingdon Special School District at 2.

²¹See Request for Review of The Pennsylvania School of the Deaf at 1. Although The Pennsylvania School for the Deaf should have used an SLD-certified technology plan approver to approve its technology plan instead of relying on approval by the school’s board, we find good cause to waive the requirement here. The Pennsylvania School of the Deaf misunderstood which entity should approve its technology plan given that it is neither a public school nor a private school but rather a school established by the Pennsylvania Constitution and chartered by the Commonwealth. See Letter from Philip A. Shalanca and Franklin D. Franus, The Pennsylvania School of the Deaf, to Schools and Libraries Division, USAC (dated Nov. 6, 2006). There is no evidence in the record that The Pennsylvania School of the Deaf intended to circumvent the technology plan approval requirements.

²²See, e.g., Request for Review of Hancock County Public Library

their applications on approved technology plans from prior years while they updated those plans and obtained approval consistent with state timeframes and procedures.” Subsequently, these Petitioners confirmed that they had an approved technology plan in place for the relevant funding year when they responded to subsequent inquiries by USAC staff, when they appealed the funding decisions with USAC, or when they appealed the funding decisions with the Commission.”

8. Based on the facts and the circumstances of these funding applications, we conclude that there is good cause to waive the applicable technology plan rules and to grant Petitioners’ requests for review. As noted above, several Petitioners committed clerical or ministerial errors, such as providing the wrong technology plan documentation.” As we noted in the *Bishop Perry Order*, we do not believe that such minor mistakes warrant the rejection of these Petitioners’ E-rate applications, especially given the requirements of the program and the thousands of applications filed each year.²⁶ Additional Petitioners missed deadlines for developing or obtaining approval of their technology plans.” USAC denied their applications not because the applicants refused to develop or obtain approval of their technology plans, but because Petitioners failed to show that they had met the deadlines when USAC requested technology plan documentation. Indeed, many Petitioners thought they had complied with the deadlines and provided copies of their technology plans or approval letters when they responded to subsequent inquiries by USAC staff, when they appealed the funding decisions with USAC, or when they appealed the funding decisions with the Commission. We find that, given that these violations are procedural, not substantive, rejection of these Petitioners’ E-rate applications is not warranted.”

9. Still other Petitioners did not understand which telecommunications services are considered non-basic and therefore require a technology plan.²⁹ We find that these Petitioners have demonstrated that rigid compliance with the application procedures does not further the purposes of section 254(h) or serve the public interest by denying their funding requests under those circumstances.³⁰

”See, e.g., Request for Review of Cleveland County Memorial Library,

²⁴See *supra* n. 18. With respect to Socorro Consolidated School District, we note that the version of the approved technology plan that is included in the record covers only the first six months of the relevant funding year. See *generally* Request for Review of Socorro Consolidated School District. However, we find that the District’s request was based on a previously approved technology plan. We further note that Jacksboro Independent School District now argues that it was not required to complete a technology plan for local and long distance voice services provided over a T-1 line. See *generally* Request for Review of Jacksboro Independent School District. Because local and long distance voice services provided over a T-1 line are not basic services, a technology plan is required. See *supra* n.9. Nonetheless, we grant the District’s Request for Review and waive our technology plan rules because we find that its request was based on a previously approved technology plan and that it had an approved technology plan in place prior to the commencement of service. See *generally* Request for Review of Jacksboro Independent School District. Finally, we note that Marion County School District Seven now argues that a technology plan was not required. See *generally* Request for Review of Marion County School District Seven. Based on the record evidence, it appears that the District was, in fact, required to develop a technology plan. However, it also appears that Marion County School District Seven had a technology plan in place for part of the funding year and updated that plan and obtained approval consistent with state timeframes and procedures. See Letter of Appeal from Everett M. Dean, Jr. Ed.D., Superintendent, Marion County School District Seven, to Schools and Libraries Division, USAC (dated Apr. 20, 2006).

²⁵See *supra* para. 7.

²⁶*Bishop Perry Order*, 21 FCC Rcd at 5321, para. 11

²⁷See *supra* para. 7.

²⁸*Bishop Perry Order*, 21 FCC Rcd at 5323, para. 14.

²⁹See *supra* para. 7.

³⁰See 47 U.S.C. § 254(h).

As the Commission previously noted, many E-rate applications are prepared by school administrators, technology coordinators, teachers and librarians — workers whose primary role in the school or library may be unrelated to applying for federal universal service funds, especially in small school districts or libraries.”

10. We **also** find that denying Petitioners’ requests would create undue hardship and prevent these otherwise eligible schools and libraries from potentially receiving funding that they truly need to bring advanced telecommunications and information service to their students and patrons.” By contrast, waiving the applicable technology plan rules for these Petitioners and granting these requests will serve the public interest by preserving and advancing **universal service**.³³ Although the technology plan requirements are necessary to guard against the waste of program funds, there **is** no evidence in the record that Petitioners engaged in activity to defraud or abuse the E-rate program. We further note that granting these requests should have minimal effect on the Fund as a whole.” Therefore, we remand the appeals to USAC for further consideration consistent with this Order.”

11. To ensure these issues are resolved expeditiously, we direct USAC to complete its review of the applications listed in the Appendix and issue an award or a denial based on a complete review and analysis no later than 90 calendar days from release of this Order. If, on remand, **USAC determines** that it needs additional information to process the applications, such as a technology plan or approval letter, USAC shall permit Petitioners to provide the information within 15 calendar days of receiving notice in writing from USAC that additional information **is required**.³⁶

12. *Additional Processing Directives for USAC.* Beginning with applications for Funding Year 2007, if an applicant responds to a request by USAC to provide technology plan documentation and the documentation provided by the applicant is deficient (*e.g.*, is outdated or will expire before the end of the relevant funding year), USAC shall: (1) inform the applicant promptly in writing of any and all deficiencies, along with a clear and specific explanation of how the applicant can remedy those deficiencies; and (2) permit the applicant to submit correct documentation, if any, within 15 calendar days

³¹ *Bishop Perry Order*, 21 FCC Red at 5323, para. 14.

³² Dickens Public Library, for instance, states that it **is** a one-staff library open less than 20 hours a **week** in a town with a population of 202. Request for Review of Dickens Public Library at 1. Similarly, Socorro Consolidated Schools notes that it **is** located in the second poorest county in the second poorest state in the country. Request for Review of Socorro Consolidated Schools at 2.

³³ 47 U.S.C. § 254(b).

³⁴ We estimate that these requests for review involve applications for approximately \$2,703,000 in funding for **Funding Years 2001-2006**. We note that USAC has already reserved sufficient funds to address outstanding appeals. *See, e.g.*, Universal Service Administrative Company, Federal Universal Service Support Mechanisms Fund Size Projections for the Second Quarter 2007 (Jan. 31, 2007). **Thus**, we determine that the action we take today should have minimal effect on the Universal Service Fund as a whole.

³⁵ With respect to SEED Public Charter School, we note that USAC cancelled funding because SEED Public Charter School did not use an SLD-certified approver and did not provide a Letter of Approval signed by the SLD-certified approver. However, SEED Public Charter School has demonstrated that it provided the signed Letter of Approval to USAC in a timely manner. *See* Request for Review of SEED Public Charter School at Exhibit 7. In addition, SEED Public Charter School has demonstrated that the entity that approved its technology plan, DC Public Charter School Board, has been an SLD-certified technology plan approver for public charter schools including SEED Public Charter School since December 12, 2000. *Id.* at Exhibit 5.

³⁶ Petitioners will be presumed to have received notice five days after such notice **is** postmarked by USAC. USAC **shall**, however, continue to work beyond the 15 days with Petitioners attempting in good faith to provide such additional information.

from the date of receipt of notice in writing by USAC.” USAC shall apply this directive to all pending applications and appeals.³⁸ The 15-day period is limited enough to ensure that funding decisions are not unreasonably delayed for E-rate applicants and should provide sufficient time to correct truly unintentional errors.³⁹ The opportunity for applicants to submit technology plan information that cures minor errors will also improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Fund. Because applicants who are eligible for funding will now receive funding where previously it was denied for minor errors, we will ensure that funding is distributed first to the applicants who are determined by our rules to be most in need of funding. As a result, universal service support will be received by schools and libraries in which it will have the greatest impact for the most students and patrons. Furthermore, the opportunity to provide correct technology plan documentation will improve the efficiency of the E-rate program. If USAC helps applicants provide correct technology plan documentation initially, USAC should be able to reduce the money it spends on administering the fund because fewer appeals will be filed protesting the denial of funding for these types of issues. Therefore, we believe this additional opportunity to cure inadvertent errors in the technology plan documentation submitted will improve the administration of the Fund and reduce the occurrence of circumstances justifying waivers such as those granted above.

13. To complement this effort, USAC shall develop additional outreach efforts to help applicants gain a better understanding of the technology plan requirements and avoid some of the mistakes presented here. Specifically, USAC shall update the information on its website concerning technology plans to clarify that the technology plan that the applicant must develop by the time it files its FCC Form 470 is the technology plan for the *upcoming* funding year(s). In some cases, when Petitioners filed FCC Form 470, they relied on technology plans from prior funding years that included the same services, but would expire during the application process or funding year.⁴⁰ These Petitioners then obtained approval for new plans by the time they received discounted services.⁴¹ Therefore, they incorrectly assumed that they met the requirements in the Commission’s rules that they be “covered by ... technology plans for using the services requested in the [Form 470]”⁴² and that “their plan [be] approved before they began receiving services.”⁴³ That is, they thought they could use two different plans to satisfy the technology plan requirements whereas the rules require applicants to develop a technology plan in advance of filing their FCC Form 470 and to obtain approval of *that same plan* prior to the commencement of service. We believe such an outreach program will increase awareness of the technology plan requirements and will assist applicants in complying with those requirements. We also believe that these changes will improve the overall efficacy of the E-rate program.

³⁷ Applicants will be presumed to have received notice five days after such notice is postmarked by USAC. USAC shall, however, continue to work beyond the 15 days with applicants attempting in good faith to provide documentation

³⁸ This includes all FY 2006 applications for which USAC has completed its review.

³⁹ We note that applicants will retain the ability to appeal decisions denying funding requests on other grounds. See 47 C.F.R. § 54.719(c).

⁴⁰ See, e.g., Request for Review of Cleveland County Memorial Library

⁴¹ *Id.*

⁴² 47 C.F.R. § 54.504(b)(2)(iii).

⁴³ *Id.* § 54.508(d). In the *Fifth Report and Order*, the Commission revised its rules to permit applicants to obtain approval of their technology plans prior to receiving service instead of prior to filing their FCC Forms 470. However, the Commission made clear that “applicants still are expected to develop a technology plan prior to requesting bids or services in FCC Form 470; all that we are deferring is the timing of the approval of such plan by the state or other approved certifying body.” See *Fifth Report and Order*, 19 FCC Rcd 15808, 15826-30, para. 56.

14. In addition, we note that, in the *Comprehensive Review NPRM*, we started a proceeding to address the concerns raised herein by, among other things, improving the application and disbursement process for the E-rate program.⁴⁴ Although we expect that the additional direction we have provided in this Order will help ensure that eligible schools and libraries can more effectively navigate the technology plan requirements, this action does not obviate the need to take steps to reform and improve the program based on the record in the *Comprehensive Review* proceeding.

15. We emphasize the limited nature of this decision. Although we base our decision to grant these requests in part on the fact that many of the rules at issue here are procedural, such a decision is in the context of the purposes of section 254 and cannot necessarily be applied generally to other Commission rules that are procedural in nature. Specifically, section 254 directs the Commission to “enhance . . . access to advanced telecommunications and information services for all public and non-profit elementary and secondary school classrooms, health care providers and libraries.”⁴⁵ Moreover, this Order does not alter the obligation of participants in the E-rate program to comply with the Commission's rules on technology plans or our other rules, which are vital to the efficient operation of the E-rate program.⁴⁶ We continue to require E-rate applicants to submit complete and accurate information to USAC in a timely fashion as part of the application review process. The direction we provide USAC will not lessen or preclude any application review procedures of USAC. All existing E-rate program rules and requirements will continue to apply, including the existing forms and documentation, USAC's Program Integrity Assurance review procedures, and other processes designed to ensure applicants meet the applicable program requirements.

16. Finally, we are committed to guarding against waste, fraud, and abuse, and ensuring that funds disbursed through the E-rate program are used for appropriate purposes. Although we grant the appeals addressed here, this action in no way affects the authority of the Commission or USAC to conduct audits and investigations to determine compliance with E-rate program rules and requirements. Because audits and investigations may provide information showing that a beneficiary or service provider failed to comply with the statute or Commission rules, such proceedings can reveal instances in which universal service funds were improperly disbursed or in a manner inconsistent with the statute or the Commission's rules. To the extent we find that funds were not used properly, we will require USAC to recover such funds through its normal processes. We emphasize that we retain the discretion to evaluate the uses of monies disbursed through the E-rate program and to determine on a case-by-case basis that waste, fraud, or abuse of program funds occurred and that recovery is warranted. We remain committed to ensuring the integrity of the program and will continue to aggressively pursue instances of waste, fraud, or abuse under the Commission's procedures and in cooperation with law enforcement agencies.

IV. ORDERING CLAUSES

17. ACCORDINGLY, IT IS ORDERED, pursuant to the authority contained in sections 1-4 and 254 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. §§ 151-154 and 254, that the Requests for Review or Waiver filed by the Petitioners as listed in the Appendix ARE GRANTED to the extent provided herein.

18. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, pursuant to the authority contained in sections 1-4 and 254 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. §§ 151-154 and 254, and pursuant to section

⁴⁴ *Comprehensive Review NPRM*, 20 FCC Rcd at 11324-25, paras. 37-40.

⁴⁵ See 47 U.S.C. § 254(h).

⁴⁶ See 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.504(b)(2)(iii)-(iv), (c)(1)(iv)-(v), 54.508; *Fifth Report and Order*, 19 FCC Rcd 15808, 15826-30, para. 56.

1.3 of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. § 1.3, that sections **54.504(b)(2)(iii)-(iv)**, (c)(1)(iv)-(v) and **54.508(c)-(d)** of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. §§ **54.504(b)(2)(iii)-(iv)**, (c)(1)(iv)-(v) and **54.508(c)-(d)**, ARE WAIVED to the extent provided herein.

19. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, pursuant to the authority contained in sections 1-4 and 254 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. §§ 151-154 and 254, that the applications associated with ~~the~~ Requests for Review or Waiver filed by the Petitioners as listed in the Appendix ARE REMANDED to USAC for further consideration in accordance with the terms of this Order.

20. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, pursuant to the authority contained in sections **1-4** and 254 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, **47** U.S.C. §§ 151-154 and 254, that USAC SHALL COMPLETE its review of each remanded application listed in ~~the~~ Appendix and ISSUE an award or a denial based on a complete review and analysis no later than 90 calendar days ~~from~~ release of this Order.

21. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Order SHALL BE EFFECTIVE upon release, in accordance with section 1.103 of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. § 1.103.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary

APPENDIX

Requests for Review or Waiver

Applicant	Application Number	Funding Year
Brownsville Independent School District	482620 482818	2005
Charlottesville City Schools	387023 387026 387283	2004
Cleveland County Memorial Library	401354 401368	2004
Coldwater Public Library	487376	2005
Dedham Public Schools	406505	2004
Dickens Public Library	299479	2002
Elbert County School District	452613 456680 476078 477346	2005
Granite School District	466373 468264 468281 468272 468255 452468	200s
Hancock County Public Library	397727	2004
Huntingdon Special School District	504027	2006
InterTechnologies Group	255133	2001
Jacksboro Independent School District	457383	2005
Kimball Public Library	492738	2006
Marathon County Public Library	477285	2005

Applicant	Application Number	Funding Year
Marion County School District Seven	476915	2005
Mark Twain Union Elementary School District	358862	2003
Maternity B.V.M. School	465421	2005
Milford E. Barnes Jr. School	347543	2003
Norfolk Country Agricultural High School	390006	2004
Our Lady of Grace School	465815	2005
The Pennsylvania School for the Deaf	454956	200s
Pierson Library	406663	2004
St. Malachy School	479436	2005
St. Mary's Public Library	496905	2006
St. Mary Star of the Sea School	464208	2005
St. Paul - Our Lady of Vilna School	481180	2005
School Administrative District 29	341484	2003
SEED Public Charter School of Washington, DC	312552	2003
Socorro Consolidated School District	413432	2005
School		2005
Urban Day School	418922	2005
Wisconsin Rapids Area School District	464910 474301	2005

**STATEMENT
COMMISSIONER ROBERT M. McDOWELL**

*Re: Requests for Waiver of the Decision of the Universal Service Administrator by
Adams County School District 14, Commerce City, CO, et al., and
Schools and Libraries Universal Service Support Mechanism, CC Docket No. 02-6*

*Re: Requests for Review of the Decision of the Universal Service Administrator by
Alpaugh Unified School District, Alpaugh, CA, et al., and
Schools and Libraries Universal Service Support Mechanism, CC Docket No. 02-6*

*Re: Requests for Review or Waiver of the Decision of the
Universal Service Administrator by
Brownsville Independent School District, Brownsville, TX, et al., and
Schools and Libraries Universal Service Support Mechanism, CC Docket No. 02-6*

By adopting these three orders, we are granting 182 appeals of decisions taken by the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) that reduced or denied funding by applicants of the schools and libraries universal service mechanism. This program promotes the noble goal of assisting schools and libraries in the United States to obtain affordable telecommunications and Internet access. I support these decisions for several reasons. First, each of these appeals involves technicalities in the USAC procedures. Our actions here do not substantively alter the eligibility of the Schools and Libraries program. Furthermore, we find no indication of any intention to defraud the system on the part of any of these applicants. Also, our decisions and USAC's actions on appeal should have minimal effect on the level of the Universal Service Fund, because USAC has already reserved sufficient funds to take into account pending appeals. Finally, I am pleased that we impose reasonable time limits on USAC to address these cases on appeal so they can be resolved expeditiously.

Pat Semc
L. p. p. p.

United

To: SLD Appeal:

From: Pat Semc

Date: 2-12-07

Subject: Technology Plan and additional support documents

Please find following Dickson County Schools appeal form 471 Application Number 527252.

Supporting documents include:

USAC Funding Commitment Decision Letter dated February 6, 2007
Technology Plan Approval Letter, Tennessee Department of
Education dated June 28, 2006

Dickson County Schools Technology Plan 2006 - 2010

(note: references at topic headers are required by the State Department of Education as part of our consolidated planning process)

DICKSON COUNTY SCHOOLS
817 North Charlotte Street
Dickson, TN 37055

APPEAL

RE: Appeal of Reduced Funding of Telephone Service and Internet Service for Dickson County School District

Date: February 12, 2007

Funding Commitment Report Dated 02/06/2007
Applicant Name: Dickson County School District
Form 471 Application Number: 527252
Billed Entity Number: 128215
Funding Request Number: 1454600 and 1454665
Funding Year: 2006 (Year 9)

Appeal Request:

Telephone Service FRN # 1454600 and Internet Service FRN #1454665 were denied. We wish to appeal this modification based on the SLD's circumstance regarding clarifying an SLD error and providing documentation to correct an incorrect SLD assumption.

The Funding Commitment Letter explanation states:

"During PIA review, you provided information that you do not have a written Technology Plan, FCC rules require that applicants have a tech plan if they are seeking discounts for more than basic phone."

Applicant Explanation:

We believe the SLD erred in that an incorrect assumption was made by the SLD in reviewing information provided to PIA questions.

We would like to clarify the information previously sent to the SLD. Attached is a Copy of the approval letter from the State showing that we had a technology plan approved from July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2009. Also attached is a copy of the technology plan that was approved by the State for this time period. This technology plan was created prior to the posting of any of Dickson County School District's Form 470s for the 2006 year.

Relief Requested

We request that the application be funded in full for \$249,312.24 given that we did have a correctly approved technology plan and followed all of the requirements.

In addition to the above, we are also available to provide any additional clarification needed. I look forward to your resolution of this **appeal** and am available to answer any other questions you may have. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Charlie Daniel
Director of Schools
Dickson County District
Phone: 615-446-7571
cdaniel@dcb.org

Contact Information:

Pat Semore
Dickson County School District
817 N Charlotte Street
Dickson, TN 37055-1008
615-446-7571 ext. 15000
psemore@dcb.org
Fax: 615-740-5904



Universal Service Administrative Company
Schools & Libraries Division

FUNDING COMMITMENT DECISION LETTER
(Funding Year 2006: 07/01/2006 - 06/30/2007)

February 6, 2007

Pat Semore
DICKSON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
817 N CHARLOTTE ST
DICKSON, TN 37055-1008

Re: Form 471 Application Number: 527252
Billed Entity Number (BEN): 128215
Billed Entity FCC RN: 0001760552
Applicant's Form Identifier: DC8808471A

Thank you for your Funding Year 2006 application for Universal Service Support and for any assistance you provided throughout our review. The current status of the funding request(s) in the Form 471 application cited above and featured in the Funding Commitment Report(s) (Report) at the end of this letter is as follows.

- The amount, \$987.78 is "Approved."
- The amount, \$130,775.67 is "Denied."

Please refer to the Report on the page following this letter for specific funding request decisions and explanations. The Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) is also sending this information to your service provider(s) so preparations can begin for implementing your approved discount(s) after you file Form 486 (Receipt of Service Confirmation Form). A guide that provides a definition for each line of the Report precedes the Report.

A list of Important Reminders and Deadlines is included with this letter to assist you throughout the application process.

NEXT STEPS

- Work with your service provider to determine if you will receive discounted bills or if you will request reimbursement from USAC after paying your bills in full
- Review technology planning approval requirements
- Review CIPA requirements
- File Form 486
- Invoice USAC using the Form 474 (service provider) or Form 472 (Billed Entity) - as products and services are being delivered and billed

TO APPEAL THIS DECISION:

If you wish to appeal a decision in this letter, your appeal must be received by USAC or postmarked within 60 days of the date of this letter. Failure to meet this requirement will result in automatic dismissal of your appeal. In your letter of appeal:

1. Include the name, address, telephone number, fax number, and (if available) email address for the person who can most readily discuss this appeal with us.
2. State outright that your letter is an appeal. Include the following to identify the letter and the decision you are appealing:
 - Appellant name,
 - Applicant name and service provider name, if different from appellant,
 - Applicant BEN and Service Provider Identification Number (SPIN),
 - Form 471 Application Number 527252 as assigned by USAC,
 - "Funding Commitment Decision Letter for Funding Year 2006," AND
 - The exact text or the decision that you are appealing,

3. Please keep your letter to the point, and provide documentation to support your appeal. Be sure to keep a copy of your entire appeal, including any correspondence and documentatron.
4. If you are the applicant, please provide a copy of your appeal to the service provider(s) affected by USAC's decision. If you are the service provider, please provide a copy of your appeal to the applicant(s) affected by USAC's decision.
5. Provide an authorized signature on your letter of appeal.

To submit Your appeal to USAC by email, email your appeal to appeals@universal-service.org. USAC will automatically reply to incoming emails to confirm receipt.

To submit your appeal to USAC by fax, fax your appeal to (973) 599-6542.

To submit your appeal to USAC on paper, send your appeal to:

Letter of Appeal
 Schools and Libraries Division - Correspondence Unit
 100 South Jefferson Road
 P.O. BOX 902
 Whippany, New Jersey 07981

While we encourage you to resolve your appeal with USAC first, you have the option of filing an appeal directly with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). You should refer to CC Docket No. 02-6 on the first page of your appeal to the FCC. Your appeal must be received by the FCC or postmarked within 60 days of the date of this letter. Failure to meet this requirement will result in automatic dismissal of your appeal. We strongly recommend that you use the electronic filing options described in the "Appeals Procedure" posted in the Reference Area of our website. If you are submitting your appeal via United States Postal Service, send to: FCC, Office of the Secretary, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554.

NOTICE ON RULES AND FUNDS AVAILABILITY

An applicants' receipt of funding commitments is contingent on their compliance with all statutory, regulatory, and procedural requirements of the Schools and Libraries Program. Applicants who have received funding commitments continue to be subject to audits and other reviews that USAC and/or the FCC may undertake periodically to assure that funds that have been committed are being used in accordance with all such requirements. USAC may be required to reduce or cancel funding commitments that were not issued in accordance with such requirements, whether due to action or inaction, including but not limited to that by USAC, the applicant, or the service provider. USAC, and other appropriate authorities (including but not limited to the FCC), may pursue enforcement actions and other means of recourse to collect improperly disbursed funds. The timing of payment of invoices may also be affected by the availability of funds based on the amount of funds collected from contributing telecommunications companies.

Schools and Libraries Division
 Universal Service Administrative Company

A GUIDE TO THE FUNDING COMMITMENT REPORT

A report for each funding request in your application is attached to this letter. We are providing the following definitions for the items in that report.

FORM 471 APPLICATION NUMBER: The unique identifier assigned to a Form 471 application by USAC.

FUNDING REQUEST NUMBER (FRN): A Funding Request Number is assigned by USAC to each Block 5 of your Form 471. This number is used to report to applicants and service providers the status of individual funding requests submitted.

FUNDING STATUS: Each FRN will have one of the following statuses:

1. "Funded" - the FRN is approved for support. The funding level will generally be the level requested unless USAC determined during the application review process that some adjustment is appropriate.
2. "Not Funded" - the FRN is one for which no funds were committed. The reason for the decision will be briefly explained in the "Funding Commitment Decision Explanation." An FRN may be "Not Funded" because the request does not comply with program rules, or because the total amount of funding available for the Funding Year was insufficient to fund all requests.
3. "As Yet Unfunded" - a temporary status assigned to an FRN when USAC is uncertain at the time the letter is sent about whether sufficient funds exist to make commitments for requests for Internal Connections Other than Basic Maintenance or Basic Maintenance of Internal Connections at a particular discount level. For example, if your application included requests for discounts on both Telecommunications Services and Internal Connections, you might receive a letter with funding commitments for your Telecommunications Services funding requests and with an "As Yet Unfunded" status on your Internal Connections requests. You would receive one or more subsequent letters regarding the funding decisions on your Internal Connections requests.

CATEGORY OF SERVICE: The type of service ordered from the service provider, as shown on your Form 471.

FORM 470 APPLICATION NUMBER: The Form 470 Application Number associated with this FRN from Block 5, Item 12 of the Form 471.

SPIN (Service Provider Identification Number): A unique number assigned by USAC to service providers seeking payment from the Universal Service Fund Programs. A SPIN is also used to verify delivery of services and to arrange for payment.

SERVICE PROVIDER NAME: The legal name of the service provider.

CONTRACT NUMBER: The number of the contract between the eligible party and the service provider, if a contract number was provided on your Form 471.

BILLING ACCOUNT NUMBER: The account number that your service provider has established with you for billing purposes, if a Billing Account Number was provided on your Form 471.

SERVICE START DATE: The Service Start Date for this FRN from Block 5, Item 19 of your Form 471.

CONTRACT EXPIRATION DATE: The Contract Expiration Date for this FRN from Block 5, Item 20 of your Form 471, if a contract expiration date was provided on your Form 471.

SITE IDENTIFIER: The Entity Number listed in Form 471, Block 5, Item 22a for "site specific" FRNs only.

NUMBER OF MONTHS RECURRING SERVICE PROVIDED IN FUNDING YEAR: The number of months of service that has been approved for the funding year, for recurring services.

ANNUAL PRE-DISCOUNT AMOUNT FOR ELIGIBLE RECURRING CHARGES: Eligible monthly pre-discount amount approved for recurring charges multiplied by number of months of recurring service approved for the funding year.

ANNUAL PRE-DISCOUNT AMOUNT FOR ELIGIBLE NON-RECURRING CHARGES: Annual eligible non-recurring charges approved for the funding year.

PRE-DISCOUNT AMOUNT: Amount in Form 471, Block 5, Item 231, as determined through the application review process.

DISCOUNT PERCENTAGE APPROVED BY USAC: The discount rate that USAC approved for this service.

FUNDING COMMITMENT DECISION; The total amount of funding that USAC has reserved to reimburse your service provider for the approved discounts for this service for this funding year. It is important that both you and your service provider recognize that USAC should be invoiced and that disbursement of funds will be made only for eligible, approved services actually rendered.

FUNDING COMMITMENT DECISION EXPLANATION: This entry provides an explanation of the amount in the "Funding Commitment Decision."

FCDL DATE: The date of this Funding Commitment Decision Letter (FCDL).

WAVE NUMBER: The wave number assigned to FCDLs issued on this date.

LAST ALLOWABLE DATE FOR DELIVERY AND INSTALLATION FOR NON-RECURRING SERVICES: The last date approved by the FCC for delivery and installation of eligible non-recurring services (e.g., equipment). (The last allowable date for delivery and installation of recurring services is always the last day of the fund year, that is, June 30, 2007 for Funding Year 2006.)

FUNDING COMMITMENT REPORT
Billed Entity Name: DICKSON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BEN: 128215
Funding Year: 2006

Form 471 Application Number: 527252
Funding Request Number: 1454600
Funding Status: Not Funded
Category of Service: Telecommunications Service
Form 470 Application Number: 578610000394874
SPIN: 143004824
Service Provider Name: BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.
Contract Number: 626
Billing Account Number: 6154414152216
Service Start Date: 07/01/2006
Contract Expiration Date: 06/30/2007
Number of Months Recurring Service Provided in Funding Year: 12
Annual Pre-discount Amount for Eligible Recurring Charges: \$63,239.52
Annual Pre-discount Amount for Eligible Non-recurring Charges: \$.00
Pre-discount Amount: \$63,239.52
Discount Percentage Approved by the USAC: N/A
Funding Commitment Decision: \$0.00 - Technology Plan Required
Funding Commitment Decision Explanation: During PIA review, you provided information that you do not have a written Technology Plan. FCC rules require that applicants have a tech plan if they are seeking discounts for more than basic phone service. The services in this FRN are more than basic phone service.

FCDL Date: 02/06/2007
Wave Number: 042
Last Allowable Date for Delivery and Installation for Non-Recurring Services: 09/30/2007

Funding Request Number: 1454640
Funding Status: Funded
Category of Service: Telecommunications Service
Form 470 Application Number: 893340000575766
SPIN: 143004771
Service Provider Name: Verizon South Inc.
Contract Number: T
Billing Account Number: 615441452216
Service Start Date: 07/01/2006
Contract Expiration Date: 06/30/2007
Number of Months Recurring Service Provided in Funding Year: 12
Annual Pre-discount Amount for Eligible Recurring Charges: \$1,496.64
Annual Pre-discount Amount for Eligible Non-recurring Charges: \$.00
Pre-discount Amount: \$1,496.64
Discount Percentage Approved by the USAC: 66%
Funding Commitment Decision: \$987.78 - FRN approved; modified by SLD
Funding Commitment Decision Explanation: The dollars requested were reduced to remove charges to pre-k facility

PCDL Date: 02/06/2007
Wave Number: 042
Last Allowable Date for Delivery and Installation for Non-Recurring Services: 09/30/2007

FUNDING COMMITMENT REPORT
Billed Entity Name: DICKSON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BEN: 128215
Funding Year: 2006

Form 471 Application Number: 527252
Funding Request Number: 1454665
Funding Status: Not Funded
Category of Service: Internet Access
Form 470 Application Number: 827290000480692
SPIN: 143025738
Service Provider Name: Trillion Digital Communications, Inc
Contract Number: 2002-071
Billing Account Number: TN-DICK
Service Start Date: 07/01/2006
Contract Expiration Date: 01/22/2009
Number of Months Recurring Service Provided in Funding Year: 12
Annual Pre-discount Amount for Eligible Recurring Charges: \$134,905.44
Annual Pre-discount Amount for Eligible Non-recurring Charges: \$.00
Pre-discount Amount: \$134,905.44
Discount Percentage Approved by the USAC: N/A
Funding Commitment Decision: \$0.00 - Technology Plan Required
Funding Commitment Decision Explanation: During PIA review, you provided information that you do not have a written Technology Plan. FCC rules require that applicants have a tech plan if they are seeking discounts for more than basic phone service. The services in this FRN are more than basic phone service.
FCDL Date: 02 06/2007
Wave Number: 642
Last Allowable Date for Delivery and Installation for Non-Recurring Services: 09/30/2007

IMPORTANT REMINDERS & DEADLINES

Form 471 Application Number: 527252
Billed Entity Number: 128215
Name of Billed Entity: DICKSON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

YOUR NEXT STEPS IN THE APPLICATION PROCESS: Following are steps to assist you through the application process. Web page URLs are included to facilitate access to additional information on USAC's website.

REVIEW TECHNOLOGY PLANNING REQUIREMENTS - Program rules require a technology plan based on an assessment of needs and that those plans be approved before the start of services. See "Develop a Technology Plan" at <http://www.usac.org/sl/applicants/step02/> for information about technology plan requirements and approvals.

REVIEW CHILDREN'S INTERNET PROTECTION ACT (CIPA) REQUIREMENTS - CIPA compliance is required for requests for Internet Access, Internal Connections and Basic Maintenance discounts. For information about CIPA requirements and certifications, see "Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA)" at <http://www.usac.org/sl/applicants/step10/cipa.aspx> for information about CIPA and its requirements.

FILE FORM 486 - You must notify USAC of the start of service, the name of your USAC-certified technology plan approver and your compliance with CIPA on Form 486. See "Begin Receipt of Services" on our website at <http://www.usac.org/sl/applicants/step10/>

FORM 486 DEADLINE - The Form 486 must be postmarked no later than 120 days after the Service Start Date featured in the Form 486 Notification Letter or no later than 120 days after the date of the Funding Commitment Decision Letter, whichever is later. Use the "Deadlines" calculator on our website at <http://www.usac.org/sl/tools/deadlines> to calculate your Form 486 deadline.

INVOICE USAC - After eligible services have been delivered, invoice USAC to request reimbursement of approved discounts. For information about requesting reimbursement from USAC, see "Invoice USAC" on our website at <http://www.usac.org/sl/applicants/step11/>.

INVOICE DEADLINE - Invoices must be postmarked no later than 20 days after the last date to receive service - or 120 days after the date of the Form 486 Notification Letter, whichever is later. Use the "Deadlines" calculator on our website at <http://www.usac.org/sl/tools/deadlines> to calculate your invoice deadline.

DOCUMENT RETENTION - Documents related to the receipt of services must be retained for at least five years after the last day of service. For more information, see "Document Retention Requirements" on our website at <http://www.usac.org/sl/about/docu-retention-requirements.aspx>

OBLIGATION TO PAY NON-DISCOUNT PORTION/FREE SERVICES ADVISORY - Applicants are required to pay the non-discount portion of the cost of the products and/or services. Service providers are required to bill applicants for the non-discount portion. For further information, see "Obligation to Pay Non-Discount Portion" on our website at <http://www.usac.org/sl/applicants/step11/obligation-to-pay.aspx> and "Free Services Advisory" at <http://www.usac.org/sl/applicants/step06/free-services-advisory.aspx>.

SUSPENSION AND DEBARMENT - Persons who have been convicted of criminal violations or held civilly liable for certain acts arising from their participation in the Schools and Libraries Program are subject to suspension and debarment from the program. More information and a current list of persons who have been suspended or debarred is posted in "Suspensions and Debarments" on our website at <http://www.usac.org/sl/about/suspensions-debarments.aspx>.

COMPLETE PROGRAM INFORMATION - including more information on these reminders - is posted to the Schools and Libraries area of USAC's website at www.usac.org/sl. You may also contact our Client Service Bureau using the "Submit a Question" link on our website, toll-free by fax at 1-888-276-8736 or toll-free by phone at 1-888-203-8100.

Technology Plan Approval

The Tennessee Department of Education, Lisa Howard, is certified by the Universal Service Administrative Company to approve technology plans for participation in the Schools and Libraries Program.

Dickson County Schools has a technology plan that has met the standards and criteria outlined in the following checklist. The approved technology plan is contained in Component 5 and the Compliance Matrix of the Tennessee Comprehensive Systemwide Planning Process (TCSP) and the Division of Funds Spreadsheet for Title II-D.

This technology plan is valid from **July 1, 2006** until **June 30, 2009**.

Checklist

Successful technology plans align the overall education or library service improvement objectives with the following five criteria. To qualify as an approved technology plan for a Schools and Libraries Program discount, the plan must meet these criteria.

☒ The plan establishes clear goals and a realistic strategy for using telecommunications and information technology to improve education or library services.

☒ The plan has a professional development strategy to ensure that staff knows how to use these new technologies to improve education or library services.

The plan includes an assessment of the telecommunication services, hardware, software, and other services that will be needed to improve education or library services.

☒ The plan provides a sufficient budget to acquire and support the non-discounted elements of the plan: the hardware, software, professional development and other services that will be needed to implement the strategy.

☒ The plan includes an evaluation process that enables the school or library to monitor progress toward the specified goals and make mid-course corrections in response to new developments and opportunities as they arise.

Approved By:

Lisa G. Howard

Date: 6/28/2006

Dickson County Schools



Technology Plan

2006 - 2010

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Mission Statement – Narrative Page #4

In partnership with parents, community and students, the mission of the Dickson County School District is for students to master state and national education standards and to achieve their "personal best" socially, physically and emotionally. Technology will support this goal advancing the coordinated use and availability of computers, networks, software, and presentation devices.

Shared Vision Statement:

The vision of the stakeholders of Dickson County Schools
By the end of third grade, all students meet or exceed state grade level expectations in reading.
All students receive quality, research based, data driven instruction.
All students successfully complete their program of studies.
All students are on grade level and remain in school until graduation.
All students graduate from the school district with the technological skills to complete successfully in the workplace or later in higher education.
All students graduate with the knowledge and skills that will allow them to exercise their civic rights, attain a high standard of living, and interact effectively with others in society and complete in a culturally diverse global society.
Technology will support these goals advancing the coordinated use and availability of computers, networks, software, and presentation devices.

Vision

The Dickson County School System recognizes that we are living in a rapidly changing technology based era. As a school system, Dickson County believes it is imperative to equip every student with the skills necessary to prepare them for successful living and employment in this technological era. It thereby becomes the primary goal for Dickson County and the State of Tennessee to provide teachers with the tools and training required to meet this challenge. Advances in technology permeate our daily lives at an ever increasing rate. With these advances, technology based instruction will become a common method of teaching, although human instructors will always play the key role in the process of teaching and learning. The classroom, with the use of technology, has the potential to be a more imaginative and challenging environment. Teachers using technology can expand the boundaries of their students and reach a worldwide wealth of information and materials. With this potential, educational technology must have its growth nurtured and directed toward its promise as an effective and vital learning tool. Planned technical growth will take time, effort and money. It is the purpose of the technology planning effort to develop the framework through which directed technological growth will take place. Through this planning process, Dickson County Schools will be able to address effectively their educational technology goals and objectives.

Plan Summary

The 2006 - 2010 technology plan for Dickson County outlines goal and objectives for the school system over the three year planning cycle. The plan also includes the process for gaining insights from stakeholders in the planning process. Responsibilities, timelines, training, budget support and evaluation processes are reported as well as the process to support each. Policy review and mandate statements present a commitment to the protection of students in the system. Historical review of what we have accomplished points in a direction of advanced technology capability far outreaching the system's expected ability to fund. **An** atmosphere of "anything is possible" **drives** the advancement of instruction. Instructional advancement utilizes technology with the standpoint of "No **Excuses**". Quality instruction at all levels using technological processes enhances teachers teaching and students learning.

Technology Plan — component #5, page 63, Narrative page #20

Dickson County Schools began in the fall of 2005 to conduct a study and master plan for technology. The overall goal was to begin an improvement plan beginning in school year 2006-07.

This three year plan includes:

1. The development of a survey by Dickson County's technology consults.
2. Meeting with each school's staff and distributing the survey.
3. Having technology staff analyze each building's technology level.
4. Working with the Director of Schools and Board of Education to secure funding
5. Re-survey staff in 2007 to identify points of need after one year of implementation.

The goals and objectives of the plan were developed after analyzing results of the stakeholder surveys and data gathered from onsite observation of each building. **These** goals include:

1. Satisfy the basic requirements of providing technology services to support instruction.
2. Provide equal educational opportunities between schools for all students.
3. Meet the needs **as** determined by the district planning process (**TCSPP**).

Needs Assessment and Stakeholder Involvement in Planning — Narrative Page # 5

The Director of Schools asked for input from principals on the development of a survey for teachers and instructional support staff. The final **plan** was developed with input **from** career and technical staff, federal programs supervisor, attendance supervisor, technology director, special education directors, adult education director, elementary and secondary supervisors and principals. Support for this plan **was** approved by the board of education **and** the budget also reflected this support.

Collaboration among Educators – Component #1, Page # 10 CIMP

Dickson County Schools encourages the collaboration of educators through the annual and ongoing needs assessment at each school. This process is facilitated by the principal through work with his/her teacher committee to evaluate all needs of the school for both the physical plant as well as the curriculum. The ongoing collaboration among teachers is facilitated by means of grade level planning that incorporates the library (media center) teacher to make effective use of all the schools resources, including technology. The committee's recommendations are used by the principal as he/she works annually with the district administrators to develop policy and budgetary priorities for each upcoming school year.

Collaboration with Community Partners – Component #1, Page # 10 CIMP

Dickson County Schools makes extensive use of "Education Edge" in a partnership adopted by the Dickson County Chamber of Commerce. The Education Edge steering committee works with the Chamber, local industry and the School System to identify, promote, contribute to and supplement programs taught within the schools that target identified needs of local industry. The Education Edge Steering Committee has been in place and meeting monthly for six years. The committee is comprised of one person from each of the State identified occupational clusters.

Plan for the Future – Component #3 & #4, Pages 14, 15, 29 & 52 Extended Contract Plan & Component # 5 TCSPF

Analyses of the data indicated three major areas of need for technology support. Specific actions were developed with consultation between the technology staff, Extensive Technologies, administration, and other interested parties. These areas of need are addressed in the 2006 - 2007 school year system budgets.

Immediate Needs:

1. Develop a tool for better communication between instructional support staff and the technology services staff.
2. Provide multimedia instructional tools for teachers.
3. Develop a replacement cycle for aging computers in schools.

Long Range Needs:

1. Replacement of software - application software to web-based software.
2. Continuing to replace computers on a timely schedule.
3. Provide software and network applications that advance instruction, interest, and provide for student safety.

Timeline of the Plan – Narrative Page # 3

The plan developed covers three school years beginning with the fall of 2006 and ending with the spring of 2010. Many projects included in the three year time span had their origins and part of their funding prior to the fall of 2006. Many projects have their inception during the timeline but will not be completed until a later date.

Implementation of the Plan - Narrative Page # 3

Each area of need will be addressed by the beginning of the 2006-07 school year and efforts will be initiated to sustain the improvement effort.

1. Purchase of a help desk software (GroupLink) to provide a communication tool between instructional staff and technology services staff.
2. Utilize tech coaches at school sites to support the integration of technology in the instructional program.
3. Working with vendors to develop a multimedia cart that provides a computer, projector, document camera, monitor, speakers, and network capability to support the instructional program with technology.
4. Develop a plan for renewing computers over time on an on-going basis. An overall goal will be a three year cycle for replacement.

Responsible Parties

John **GUM** - the Attendance Director **has** the responsibility for the implementation of the plan as it relates to student management software and state reporting requirements. Attendance will be reflected in data presented in the TCSPP and other required documentation supporting funding for the local system.

Pat Semore - the Career and Technical/Technology Director is responsible for the oversight and implementation of all Career and Technical **programs** incorporating technology and for developing with the school principal **staff** development appropriate to the **Career** and Technical program needs. Equipment, training and other needs will reflect the **Perkins** Career and Technical plan. In addition, the Technology Director will implement the overall program improvement plan working with technology **staff**, vendors/contractors, Principals, instructional staffs, supervisors, the Director of Schools **and** the Board of Education. Data **from the** TCSPP will reflect **needs** that will drive the improvement plan. Emphasis will note needs **as** presented in the Continuous Improvement Mentoring Process for special education learners reflected **by** TCSPP data.

Vivian McCord - Federal Projects Director is responsible to coordinate each effort in such a way that all Federal Guidelines are met and all students are given the proper support to make them successful. **In** addition, Federal Projects provides and supervisors many of the in-service activities for instructional staff. The director will assure that training will meet the needs as outlined in the TCSPP and Federal Consolidated Plan.

The School Principal - is responsible for working with the Attendance, Technology, Career and Technical or other directors as appropriate to provide meaningful teacher in-service for that school's staff. In-service will reflect needs **as** presented in the TCSPP, Federal Consolidated Plan, Special Education's Continuous Improvement Mentoring Process, and the **Perkins** Career and Technical Plan.

- Lila Meek - **Stuart-Burns** Elementary
- Malissa **Johnson** - Charlotte Elementary
- Crysti Sheley - Centennial Elementary
- Ray LeComte - Charlotte Middle
- Karen Willey - New Directions Academy
- Devin Sisco - Dickson Elementary

- Johnny Chandler - Dickson Middle
- Ed Littleton - Dickson County High
- Debbie Bogden - The Discovery School
- Janie Thomas - Oakmont Elementary
- Rachel Weaver - Vanleer Elementary
- Gail Mosley - White Bluff Elementary
- Louise Buchanan - William James Middle
- Janie Jones - Creek Wood High

Goals and Objectives - Component #4 & #5 pages 33, 54, 58, 63, & 64 - Narrative page I & Component #3 & #4 pages 14, 15, 29, 52 Extended Contract Plan & Component #5 TCSP, Extended Contract Plan

1. Access to information through technology will be provided to all students on an **equal** basis.
2. Professional staff will be knowledgeable in the **use** of the technology.
3. Teachers will have the technological tools to provide the highest quality educational program possible within budget limits.
4. Teachers and administrators will use technology to access management information to make effective decisions and maximize the use of school resources.
5. Organize and coordinate the growth of technology to the goals of a modern classroom.

Curricula and Teaching that Integrate Technology - Narrative Page #2 & Page 4

Dickson County schools have adopted system-wide the Compass Learning solution for grades K-8 as well as the alternative school beginning in 1996. **This** was done after reviewing a number of software solutions to enhance the curriculum and integrate the **use** of technology to support the instruction delivered. Compass Learning Software is in the planning stages of a replacement cycle. The plan may lead to a web-based solution to this learning platform. The **same** process was followed at the 9-12 grade level where a committee of teachers recommended the adoption of the Plato Learning system. In 2003 Plato was converted to a web-based solution which proved this configuration's value. Compass Learning and Plato Learning provides Dickson County with the scientifically-based research proven applications and objective procedures to obtain reliable and valid knowledge relevant to educational activities and programs. Accelerated Reader software is used at the elementary and middle school to encourage and document reading. Again, AR is in need of reconfiguration to a web-based platform. Long-range planning has noted the need for software package platform change but funding levels will need to be expanded. To meet the requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act, Compass and Plato Learning:

- Employs precise and practical methods that draw on observation or **experiment**.
- Involves data analyses adequate to test stated hypotheses and justify general conclusions drawn.

- Relies on measurements or observational methods that provide valid data across evaluators, multiple measurements and
- Is evaluated using experimental designs in which individuals, entities, programs, or activities are assigned different conditions and with controls to evaluate the effects, with random assignment
- Ensures experimental studies are presented in sufficient detail and systematically on findings.
- Has been accepted by a peer review journal or approved panel of independent experts.

In addition to the Compass, Plato, and Accelerated Reader programs, several schools have also adopted Accelerated Math, SkillsBank is used at Charlotte Middle and William James Middle. All elementary and middle schools use Think Link assessments to identify and evaluate student needs supporting instruction and standardized testing.

Increasing Accessibility

The infrastructure for technology has grown since the beginning of the building program to include:

1. A wide area network connecting each school
2. Instructional software that is provided by the network services
3. All classrooms, labs, and offices have network connect ability

Infrastructure planning for the future includes changing the wireless network to a complete fiber optic network and increasing the internet bandwidth from the level at the beginning of 2006 of 6 Mb to 12 Mb at the beginning of the 2007 year. These changes provide the technology backbone to support many advanced instructional activities. Packages such as web-based AR, Compass Learning, Distance Learning, and Internet activities may increase with increased infrastructure capabilities.

Equity -- Narrative page # 2

With one of the goals of the Dickson County long range plan being "equal educational opportunities for all students" a plan that represents the needs expressed from teacher and administrator surveys has been developed. This plan brings all schools near the same level of technology services. Each school will have at least one computer lab, (accomplished Spring 2006), all classroom will have connectivity (accomplished 2001 school year), all computers will be adequate per the required instructional need (process started in Fall 2005 and continuing) and all teachers and appropriate staff will be issued the needed equipment and offered training to make effective use of the equipment provided. An effort will continue to provide services and fund improvements that reflect all schools fairly and all grade level appropriately.

Professional Development - Component #4 page 34, narrative page #3 **a** Narrative Page # 13

All schools have yearly teacher in-service to advance their **skill** in not only using **the** technology provided but in integrating the program into their regular instruction. The technology staff offer mini - classes on basic computer usage and software. Federal Projects provides Intel Teach to the Future to teachers to provide integration support for technology usage in the classroom to support instruction.

Budget - Local Consolidated Application for NCLB Funding, Narrative page # 20 & 21

Current Technology Department Budget for 2006-2007; (like budget requests will be anticipated for 2007 -08, 2008-09 and 2009-10)

- Computer replacement \$200,000.00
- Repair \$30,000.00
- Support and services \$200,000.00
- Prof. Development \$10,000.00

Future Budget: Computer replacement is the item most desired to **"keep the plan on track"**. Regular monies to maintain and support the system will be part of future budgets and has been anticipated.

Interoperability

Within the development of the long range plan for Dickson **County** Schools several standards were adopted for both hardware and software for the school district. Network interoperability was facilitated by using the Novell networking operating system using a switched Ethernet network. All PCs purchased **are** Dell and are bought off available State **and** District contracts. All elementary and middle schools have adopted the Accelerated Reader program as well as the Compass Learning system. The high schools have adopted **the** Plato leaning system. The **use** of these standardized instructional tools coupled with the wide-area **network has** allowed the school system to become transparent to the student, in that as a student moves from one school to another the student instructional record and track of progress is constantly available to him/her.

Leadership

The school principal **is** the focus of instructional leadership for each school. This **is** facilitated by his/her administrative **planning** of teacher in-service that includes the **use** of technology in **the** instructional program, the **use** of student management systems, and the teacher evaluation process that **looks** for and encourages the effective use of technology in the instructional process. Additionally, teachers are encouraged to make full **use** of the software based student learning system at each school.